New England
Deaconess
Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

pulse

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PROFILE: Mr. R. D. Lowry

Twenty-five years ago on March 18, Mr. R. D. Lowry became assistant to the director of the Deaconess Hospital. He remained in the position for seven months before Dr. Warren Cook, director, promoted him to assistant director.

Today, executive vice president of the Deaconess Hospital, Mr. R. D. Lowry creates a calm, efficient atmosphere. As the competent and compassionate man, he generates an atmosphere of cheerfulness and openness. Mr. Lowry sets the pace at NEDH.

Before he came to the Deaconess Hospital in 1946, Mr. Lowry was the adjutant of hospitals for the U. S. Army. His responsibilities in administration of hospitals in the states and South Pacific entailed considerable travel during his last three years in the service.

Joining the army in 1941 was not a voluntary step for Mr. Lowry. He drew number two from the infamous fish bowl! When he received his draft notice, he owned a business in Sacramento, California, and was suddenly given three days to report for duty.

After he had been in the service for 8 months a law was passed that entitled all men over 28 years old to be discharged. "I was supposed to get out on November 26, 1941. My commanding officer asked me to stay a few extra days to help process the men over 28 — I was the chief technician in the x-ray department.

"On December 7, my bags were packed and I was walking toward the bus when the word came that Pearl Harbor was being bombed. By the time I reached the gates, they were locked and I remained in the service for another four years," explains Mr. Lowry.

When the U. S. entered World War II, Mr. Lowry was a staff sargeant stationed in San Luis Obispo, California. He then went to Officer's Candidate School in Abilene, Texas, and received a commission. Mr. Lowry then helped organize Army hospitals.

Scheduled for overseas duty, he received permission to join one of the hospitals and finally picked one that was scheduled for North Africa. As he explains it, "The orders for the hospital to ship out were written, canceled and rewritten for 17 consecutive days. Finally, the unit was sent to the Red River Ordinance Depot in Texarkana, Texas, where it operated the hospital."

Mr. Lowry's unit next received orders for San Francisco where it embarked. After a short time in Australia, he began an island-hopping excursion from New Guinea to the Philippines. After "VJ" day when orders came for his unit to move on to Japan, Mr. Lowry had completed five years in the Army. Instead of continuing with his unit, he happily returned to California.

Upon returning to the west coast, Mr. Lowry became interested in three hospital administration jobs. Indirectly, the disappointment of not getting any of the jobs led him to the Deaconess. According to Mr. Lowry, "All three positions were given to people from New England. I decided to come east to get the experience and expertise necessary to obtain the type of job that I wanted on the west coast."

Mr. Lowry's interest in the west coast became intensified after high school. Up until then, he lived with his family in Doniphan, Nebraska. After high school graduation, he went to California for a five-day trip to visit friends and relatives. The "visit" lasted for 16 years.

Dr. Neil Swinton, Mr. Lowry's last commanding officer, was at Lahey Clinic when Mr. Lowry came to Boston in 1946. Dr. Swinton referred Mr. Lowry to Dr. Warren Cook, director of the Deaconess.

"I stayed in Boston for a number of days. After being interviewed by several trustees, I was offered the job as assistant to Dr. Cook," he recalls.

On March 18, 1946, Mr. Lowry began working at the Deaconess. He readily admits that when he started his job, he had no intentions of remaining on the east coast. Like many people from other parts of the country, he expected the people in New England to be reserved, aloof and hard to get to know. To his surprise, he learned that these rumors weren't true.

"I found something at NEDH that I think is unique in a metropolitan hospital — a sense of warmth, friendliness and cooperation. I couldn't ask for a more cooperative medical staff, and the support from all departments, board of trustees and women's auxiliary is excellent!" exclaims the hospital's decisive executive.

In 1954, Mr. Lowry became executive director of NEDH. He remained in that position until the hospital's administration was reorganized into its present structure. A new top-level executive post was created because of the growth and complexity of the Deaconess. In 1967, Mr. Lowry was named executive vice president of the Deaconess and elected a member of the NEDH Board of Trustees.

As executive vice president, he represents the NEDH Trustees at other medical, educational and research institutions. Mr. Lowry is secretary of the medical staff's governing board and meets regularly with the chairmen of the medical departments. He is also responsible for long-range planning for the hospital.

Mr. Lowry has been a trustee and is a past president of the Massachusetts Hospital Association. He is a past president of the New England Hospital Superintendent's Club and the current assistant treasurer and member of the finance committee for the National League of Nursing. He is also a member of the American Hospital Association, the American College of Hospital Administrators, the New England Hospital Assembly and the board of directors of the Greater Boston Diabetes Foundation.

Before coming east, Mr. Lowry overheard several references to the Deaconess Hospital. He recalls the first incident with a smile, "I was teaching first aid to some Cub Scouts and needed two nurses to help me. I called the local hospital to see if they could find volunteers. While I was at the hospital, I heard the secretary to the director of nursing say, 'I have three more here.' The director replied, 'If they are from the New England Deaconess take their applications!'

"Through a subsequent conversation with the director of nursing, I learned that the hospital didn't need more nursing help but was willing to make an extra effort to employ nurses who had trained or worked at the New England Deaconess Hospital."

The second time Mr. Lowry heard any reference to NEDH was in a restaurant in Sidney, Australia. He heard four doctors from different countries talking about the Deaconess. Mr. Lowry joined them and, from the ensuing conversation, learned that they had trained at the Deaconess and were enthusiastic about their experiences. Looking back, Mr. Lowry recalls a few other incidents when he overheard favorable references to the Deaconess; one while he was stationed in New Guinea and the other in the Philippines.

Photography and boating are favorite pastimes and Mr. Lowry works them into his busy schedule whenever possible. He used to do his own dark room work until he came to the Deaconess — since then he hasn't found time. Scenes of the countryside, the sea and candids of children; especially his grandchildren; are Mr. Lowry's favorite types of photography.

Mr. R. D. Lowry, executive vice president, displays the sketch of the hospital's proposed apartment tower.

When he was in New Guinea, Mr. Lowry and one of his Air Force friends flew high into the Owen Stanley Mountain Range to take pictures of the natives. The *National Geographic Magazine* wanted to purchase this series, but Mr. Lowry never found time to send accompanying copy to the magazine. He still has about 3,000 negatives of New Guinea that he's never had time to print. "That's a job for my retirement!" he exclaims.

Wedding pictures are another photography specialty that Mr. Lowry enjoys. As a matter of fact, he took the wedding pictures for two of his sons and plans to do the same at his youngest son's wedding this summer.

Mr. Lowry has three sons and seven grandchildren. Don, is an attorney

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Uniform fashion show introduces "Preview Plus"

An innovative open house was held, February 17, by the NEDH School of Nursing. The attracting feature was a fashion show where potential choices for the new student uniforms were modeled. The news attraction for the day emphasized a discussion about NEDH School of Nursing orientation programs. The fashion show took place in the Joslin Auditorium at 3:00. Subsequent "rap sessions" in Harris Hall were concerned with the transition from high school to nursing school.

Area high school students who attended the event watched time march past as nursing students modeled uniforms used from 1910 to 1971. Several styles under consideration as choices for the next possible NEDH student uniform were modeled. At the conclusion of the show, guests marked a ballot indicating their opinion of the potential uniform choices.

NEDH students and their high-school aged guests talked about life at the Deaconess after the fashion show ended. Miss Anne Howard, admissions counselor, was available to answer questions about the school's two orientation programs: "Preview" and "Preview Plus." Both programs are structured to help with the adjustment to a nursing program.

"Preview" is the traditional day-and-a-half orientation program at the Deaconess that occurs during the summer. Confirmed applicants stay at Harris Hall, tour the hospital, and become acquainted with their new academic, social and living environment.

This year "Preview" is being extended for six weeks to assist confirmed applicants who need remedial courses in basic mathematic or reading skills. Students who need this work and meet other criteria of "Preview Plus" will be accepted at the Deaconess on the condition that they successfully complete the six-week session. Study habits are another discussion topic that will be covered during the program. This is the first time "Preview Plus" is possible because graduation is in June instead of July — thus making accommodations available in Harris Hall.

Alumnae news briefs

Married in 1970 . . .

Rebecca D. Bieber, '70, to Robert E. Marsh on August 29.

Anne Bradbury, '66, to Immo H. Christoph on September 27.

Nancy Bruce, '67, to David W. Tordoff on July 25.

Ann Marie Chase, '70, to Andrew B. Loman on August 22.

Virginia E. Ellis, '67, to Ronald J. Smith on December 11.

Mary Ellen Hagerty, '68, to Alan F. Pratt on January 23.

Marjorie L. Hallett, '69, to Joseph P. Cruza on October 17.

Susan L. Haubrich, '67, to Frank M. Fratzel on August 15.

Pamela J. Hendrickx, '67, to George H. Kalashian on October 3.

Kathleen E. Hollingsworth, '69, to George O. Sweeney in mid-October.

Mildred Johnson Kane, '40, to Julius H. Mueller on August 8.

Judith Lane, '68, to Wayne E. Terrill Jr. on August 22.

Joyce Boynton Loud, '56, to LeRoy L. Gipson on February 14.

Lisa Sjosten, '69, to Jerry L. Johnson on August 29.

Joyce H. Slavitz, '68, to Thomas A. Schmid on August 8.

Helen Williams, '69, to John F. Webb on May 23.

Engaged . . .

Donna J. Asadoorian, '70, to James G. Davis.

Claire M. Cutler, '70, to Harvey V. Lemovitz.

Phyllis Libby Gentile, '54, to John A. Glynn.

Linda J. Glynn, '65, to George L. Carr.

Elizabeth Ann Smith, '59, to Dwight R. Condon.

Nancy Sweeney, '69, to Matthew R. Tremble.

Births in 1970 . . .

Susan Pease Barnes, '62, first son, Christopher, born April 21.

Mary Johnson Beaudoir, '68, a son, Matthew, born May 11.

Margaret Albright Bergers, '56, a daughter, Joy Carol, born July 1.

Gail Montgomery Butler, '68, a daughter, Lee Ann, born January 16.

Margaret Shesler Cochrane, '66, a son, Wayne Hanly, born July 3.

Jennifer Gallant Cohen, '67, first child, Julie Elizabeth, born April 13.

Sandra Hodgson Congdon, '68, a daugher, Heidi Lyn, born December 3.

Hazel Gull Constantine, '67, a son, Michael Stephen, born May 19.

Kathryn Smart Cook, '62, second son, Gregory Robert, born September 14.

Susan DeLue Cowles, '68, a daughter, born June 1.

Alice Clark Giardini, '55, fifth child, Phyllis Dorcas, born September 14.

Jean Corcoran Hall, '60, second son, born November 20.

Marie Schwam Hayden, '52, third son, Andrew Stephen, born October 12.

Nancy Gates Hayes, '60, third child, Kathleen Ann, born March 4.

Sandra Morin Hoffmeister, '63, third child, Marc Frederick, born April 11.

Margaret McGrath Housley, '65, a son, Andrew Scott, born March 5.

Carilyn Dittmer Jehle, '63, first child, Jennifer Lisa, born June 30.

Jean Holden Johnson, '63, fourth daughter, Elizabeth, born October 18.

Lucille Shoff Kelley, '67, first child, Nicole, born September 7.

Evelyn Boston Kenney, '64, second son, Steven, born May 20.

Jane Pulsifer Klaameier, '63, fifth child, Melissa Anne, born August 20.

Joanne Lawrence Marzilli, '64, first child, Timothy John, born June 19.

Mary-Lou Kearney McComas, '62, third child, Albert Charles, born September 10.

Jean Obermeyer Pearson, '57, third daughter, Dagmar, born December 29, 1969.

Joan Schoonmaker Rashad, '62, a daughter, Cassandra Adrienne, born April 1.

Lillian Marshall Reichenbach, '51, fifth child, Janet Lynn, born September 19.

Deborah Crooker Russell, '66, third son, William Scott, born March 4.

Marsha Willson Slayton, '62, second son, Andrew Bartlett, born September 17.

Janice Palmer Tarr, '63, a son, Richard Paul, born September 25.

Patricia Collins Torres, '63, second child, John Michael, born May 5.

Janice Phillips Wallstrom, '62, a son, Steven Marshall, born January 6.

Betsey Gangloff White, '64, a daughter, born February 2.

Isabelle North Williams, '62, a daughter, Karen Lynn, born April 28.

Jacqueline Rixon Williams, '63, second son, Andrew Rixon, born March 27.

Grace Hayes Wyss, '65, a daughter, Sarah Jennings, born April 13.

Deaths . . .

Dorothy E. Donnell Cheney, Class of 1928, October 19, 1970.

Sympathy to . . .

Ruth Tipping Maguire, Class of 1934, on the death of her husband in December 1970.

Doris McEvoy Hicks, Class of 1955, on the death of her father in January 1971.

News items welcome

Alumnae who have items that they want published in the **Pulse,** should send them to: Alumnae Association, Harris Hall, 25 Deaconess Road, Boston, Massachusetts 02215. Only glossy photographs are suitable for reproduction. All newspaper clippings, brochures and pertinent items are retained in alumnae files.

Enjoying coffee at the November 7, 1970, NEDH Alumnae Reunion are: (l. to r. foreground) Mrs. Gertrude Snoen MacKay, Class of 1935; Mrs. Nancy Murray Johnson, Class of 1960; Miss Lois Preston, Class of 1941; and Miss Virginia Diggdon, Class of 1940. The two ladies partially hidden in the background are: Mrs. Joan Morison Hobson, Class of 1951, and Mrs. Sally Wills Tompkins, Class of 1949.

Personal notations . . .

Elaine Call Bonteonpo, '57 . . . is in Fargo, N. D., where her husband, Arnold, is on active duty with the North Dakota National Guard.

Pamela Douglas, '63 . . . will complete her masters program in administration and supervision in medical-surgical nursing at Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich., April 19, 1971.

Noreen Roth Grantz, '50 . . . is back in Lima, Peru, after a year's furlough in Penn. Her husband is the pastor of a church.

Joyce Coombs Graves, '55 . . . plans to live in Bicester, Oxon, England, for the next three years.

Frederica Reid Johnson, '38 . . . is the newly appointed executive director for the Massachusetts Nursing Association's District Five. At present, District Five serves about 3,600 nurses in Suffolk, Norfolk and Middlesex Counties. Mrs. Johnson looks forward to the challenge of promoting better health care for the community and increased services for the nurses.

Sandra Armstrong Lazar, '62 . . . is a captain in U.S.A.F. Reserve Nurse Corps. She and her husband have one more year to serve in Athens, Greece.

Elaine Norris, '61 . . . is a full-time student at the University of Colorado.

Melva Osborne, '49 . . . is on a floor, specializing in the care of cancer patients, at the Medicenter.

Margaret Brickett Sawyer, '47 . . . received a master of science degree from Boston University in May 1970. An instructor for fourth year students in the field of public health at B.U., she was also elected to Sigma Theta Tau last May.

Sara Sylvester Tavares, '67 . . . lives in Conn., with her son, Chris, while her husband is serving a year in Vietnam. She hopes to return to part-time work soon.

Raili Annili Karniala West, '67 . . . is working in the hemodialysis unit at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Sylvia White, '56 . . . was released from the Navy in October.

Thoughts from Thailand

The following excerpts are from a letter received from Nancy Hero, Class of 1953. She is currently a missionary stationed at the Christian Hospital in Manorem, Thailand:

"Dear Friends in the Alumnae Association,

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. There are always things we want for the young people here. Our student nurses, aides, the graduates and I are grateful for your gift which will meet some of our needs.

One of the most important events of the year is coming soon — the week of Youth Camp in March. I would like to use your kind gift toward the extra expenses of that week.

Students and graduates who attend, know the week at camp is not just a vacation. It is packed full of group Bible study and discussions, with plenty of fun, too. Many of the girls are serious about wanting to know more about who they are and who God is (many are Buddhists).

January 2 was graduation for a class of sixteen. Most will be continuing to work here or at our small hospital in Nongbue. Five of this group became Christians during their three years as students.

I plan to be travelling home in June for a year's furlough. I hope to see many of you friends and I am eager to see some of the exciting changes at Deaconess that I've been reading about in the **Pulse.**

Many thanks for your help to us, and especially to the young people here. May God bless each of you in this New Year."

Profile: Mr. Lowry

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in Maine; David, is a principal of schools in Westwood, Mass; and Steve, his youngest son, plans to be a choral director after he completes his education at the University of Hartford's Hartt College of Music (Conn.) this spring.

In recent years he lived with his son, David, and his family in Dover. A year ago, Mr. Lowry rejected the "commuter scene" and moved into a Brookline apartment.

Although he hasn't pursued it as long as he has photography, boating is one of Mr. Lowry's most relaxing pastimes. Unfortunately, boating revolves around the climate but that doesn't stop Mr. Lowry from taking advantage of the warm weather.

"Sequester II" is his second boat. He has owned her for three years and, like "Sequester I" docks her in Marion, Massachusetts. The dingy's name? . . . "Sequel." "Sequester II" is a 33 foot cabin cruiser—his "home" during his vacation and on weekends from May through October.

"I have always loved the sea and enjoy coastwise cruising. I don't like schedules, so when I get tired, I simply find a harbor, drop anchor and relax for the night," he explains.

Travel is a pastime that Mr. Lowry enjoys but for which he has little time. Two years ago he fit in a month-long cruise that took him to several countries. Later he went to Norway, Sweden and Demark with 32 hospital administrators and consultants to study the medical systems within the three countries.

There have been a lot of fiscal and physical changes at the Deaconess since Mr. Lowry came here 25 years ago. The hospital's budget has increased from approximately $1 million to over $20 million — "Please don't give me all the credit for that!" he exclaims. He influenced the construction of the entire Central building, the Arthur T. Dooley Chapel, the shops and laundry, the sixth floor of Palmer, the Medical Office Building and its garage.

Mr. Lowry played a part in the construction of the Cancer Research Institute, the Shields Warren Radiation Laboratory, the Joslin Diabetes Foundation's Hospital Teaching Unit and innumerable renovations at the hospital. He was also instrumental in the acquisition of the Autumn Street Apartments, Channing Home (renamed Norwich House) and other real estate.

"Since I came to the Deaconess, not a single day has gone by when I did not have one or more sets of building plans and cost estimates in my office. How nice it would be if I could have one whole year free of worrying about the need for additional facilities; one whole year when we had no construction or renovations underway and one whole year without the worry of how to finance the projects that our progress demands. Oh well, it is nice to dream!" exclaims the executive.

At the moment, Mr. Lowry is working with the architects and the building committee on plans for a modern apartment tower, a new facility for the laboratories and radiation therapy and another garage.

NEDH alumnae host party

The Deaconess Hospital's Alumnae Association is hostessing the annual spring block meeting on **Thursday, May 6.**

Participating schools of nursing are: the Deaconess, Baptist, Beth Israel and Peter Bent Brigham Hospitals. The business meeting will commence at 7:30 p.m. in Harris Hall.

Following the business portion of the evening, Miss Connie Stinchfield, handwriting analyst, will lecture in the Joslin Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. Miss Stinchfield, a licensed graphoanalyst, has a degree in psychology. Alumnae are invited to volunteer samples of their handwriting for analyzation.

As hostesses for the evening, the NEDH Alumnae Association hopes to be well represented. Please mark the date, May 6, on your calendar.

Supervising the registration desk at the November 7, 1970, reunion are: (l. to r.) Mrs. Helen Gray Broeg, Class of 1943, and Miss Phyllis Giardini, Class of 1952. Mrs. Sylvia Lyons Berry, Class of 1955, and Mrs. Lena Leary Cahill, Class of 1935, prepare to register for the day's activities.

A note of thanks from the Whitehouse family

Last August, Mrs. Janet MacDuff Whitehouse, Class of 1962, died in a car accident. Deaconess employees and many of her classmates sent contributions for her husband and three sons to the NEDH Nursing Office. **In response to these gifts, Mr. Whitehouse writes the following note:**

". . . sincere thanks for your thoughts and support to me and my family.

Janet always had a warm spot in her heart for the Deaconess and the School of Nursing even while disagreeing with them from time to time. Her association was long and would have been longer yet . . . Peace."

The following reference to Mrs. Whitehouse comes from Joanne Foley, secretary for the Class of 1962:

"The Class of 1962 has given a savings bond to each of Janet MacDuff Whitehouse's three children in her memory."

Hospital funds for consideration

Alumnae who want to contribute to one of the hospital's funds should make checks payable to the desired fund, in care of the NEDH Alumnae Association. The following list contains the names of funds to which alumnae may contribute:

Building: toward construction costs.

Free Bed: helps graduates, who have a financial need, pay for necessary hospitalization at NEDH.

Nanny Peterson: helps graduates pay for private duty nurses for the first 24 hours following surgery.

Nurses Relief: helps graduates needing financial loans.

Scholarship

School Library: for additional books.

Student Government: an open-ended fund for use by the student government.

Dates to remember

May 6, Thursday — Annual Spring Block Party

June 11, Friday — Twenty-fifth Reunion, Class of 1946

Early November — 1971 Homecoming

New England Deaconess Hospital
185 Pilgrim Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

pulse

The New England Deaconess Hospital Complex, including the Medical Office Building at One Ten Francis Street, Lahey and Overholt Thoracic Clinics, the Joslin Diabetes Foundation, Inc., the Cancer Research Institute and the Shields Warren Radiation Laboratory, is internationally known for diagnosis, treatment and research in general medicine, brain and chest surgery, cancer and diabetes.

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R. D. Lowry
Executive Vice President
Richard E. Lee
Director
Evans F. Houghton
Public Relations Director
Anne Kreidler
Public Relations Assistant

New England Deaconess Hospital
185 Pilgrim Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

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